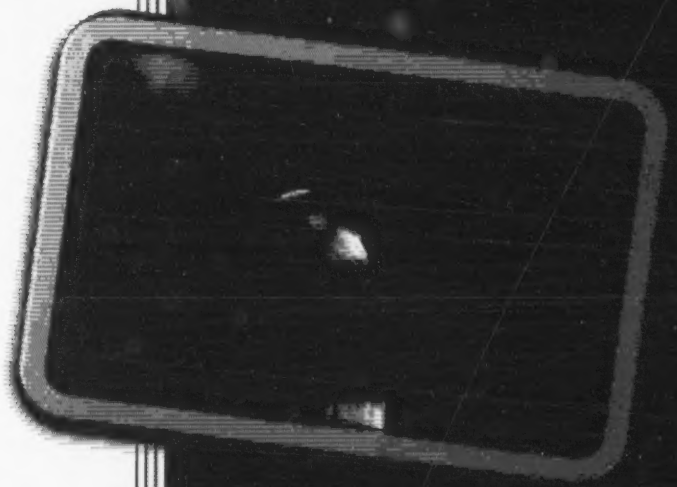
Status Report to June 2011

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2008-2012



Minister's Message

I am pleased to provide a status report on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) Framework for Action 2008-2012. The status report highlights the Department's activities on actions undertaken from January 2011 to June 2011. During the past six months progress on several major action items has been made.

Environmentally and sustainable decision-making is based on the best available scientific, traditional and local knowledge. To ensure the best information is available, identification of long term research needs and priorities has now been integrated into the ENR business planning process. A draft five-year wildlife research and monitoring plan has been developed with, and reviewed by, wildlife co-management boards.

The Department is also continuing its research into protocols for general traditional knowledge information access and sharing. Funding was provided to the Tulita Dene Band to complete a video project of interviews with elders about traditional knowledge on the land and to the Sambaa K'e Dene Band for a research project involving youth and elders to ensure traditional knowledge is based on. The Yamozhaa Kue Society assisted in the development of a workshop to inform ENR scientists on the methods used to carry out traditional knowledge research.

A comprehensive review of actions taken under the current Greenhouse Gas Strategy was completed as part of the process to renew the Strategy for the period beyond 2011. Consultation and public information sessions were held on the draft five-year NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy. The 2011-2015 Strategy should be released in August, 2011.

ENR continues to deliver several programs to help NWT residents, businesses, organizations and communities reduce their energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The new Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program, launched in May 2011 provides free energy audits and a 25 percent rebate of retrofit costs, up to a maximum of $10,000, to NWT businesses. Uptake on the current Alternative Energy Technologies, Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Incentive Programs remains strong.

A Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy, released in April 2011, outlines the impact of climate change in the three territories. The Strategy also proposes strategies for collaborative actions and supports territory specific initiatives to meet each territory's unique challenges in dealing with climate change impacts.

The Single-use Retail Bag Program was successfully expanded to apply to all retailers on February 1, 2011. This program, along with our other waste reduction and recovery programs, is helping keeping our communities litter free and increasing the life-span of community landfills.

After more than a decade of discussion and consultation, a proposed new Wildlife Act for the Northwest Territories was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in March, 2011. The proposed legislation received second reading and Members of the Legislative Assembly will discuss and vote on the proposed new Act in August, 2011.

Wildlife management remains an important issue for most NWT residents. A draft new Five-Year NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy (2001-2015) was released for public review in February, 2011. The final Strategy, to be released in August, 2011, builds upon the successful 2006-2010 Strategy. The Dehcho Boreal Caribou Working Group was established in February, 2011 to develop a management plan and range management plan for boreal caribou.

Based on results of a review of ENR's strategic approach to wildland fire management, changes to internal procedures and decision processes were implemented in some areas for the 2011 fire season. Field work and community discussions on FireSmart interface fire management plans for Hay River, Hay River Reserve, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Trout Lake, Wrigley, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Tulita were completed.

The NWT Water Stewardship Action Plan was released in May, 2011. The Action Plan lays out a partnership approach to improve and enhance water stewardship in the NWT. The Slave River Partnership community workshop in Fort Smith and Fort Resolution was held this spring to engage water stewardship partners and communities in community-based monitoring.

I encourage all NWT residents to continue their involvement in the protection of the NWT environment and the conservation of our valuable natural resources

J. Michael Miltenberger

1. Governance

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
1.1 Consultation Framework for ENR	*1.1.1 Develop a consultation framework for ENR based on the GNWT's Approach to Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations*	ENR Consultation Framework	June 2009	September 2011	An ENR Consultation and Engagement Document Template and User Guide was created. A guideline document is being developed and scheduled for completion by early fall 2011. A workshop was held in early June to review the Draft Document. Two additional workshops will be held over the summer to create templates for consultation on Wildlife and Forestry permits.
1.2 Land Use Decision Support Tools	*1.2.1 Implementation of Technology Infrastructure to support land information management and information sharing*	Core services and prototype	March 2011		✓ **Completed** Infrastructure has been successfully implemented.
	1.2.2 Develop data information inventory methodologies and tools	Data/information classification guidelines	December 2011		Work is underway developing recommended approaches and techniques to help GNWT departments identify, classify and catalog spatial data and information.
	1.2.3 Identify priority areas for collaboration between government agencies for the sharing and acquisition of new data and information	GNWT Land Information Acquisition Report	March 2012		Developing the project framework for this initiative that will ensure a high degree of collaboration across the GNWT,

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
1.3 NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS)	*1.3.1 Develop a preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT.*	Preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT	December 2009	July 2011	A report for the western NWT has been drafted and will be released with maps in 2011.
	1.3.2 Prepare a Five-Year PAS Action Plan for 2010-2015.	Five-Year PAS Action Plan: 2010-2015	March 2010		✓ **Completed** The GNWT has signed off on the Establishment Action Plan: 2010-2015. Final document is now available on the PAS website. http://www.nwtpas.ca/
	1.3.3 Work with Nunavut to implement the Thelon Management Plan.	Implementation plan and status report	March 2010	To be determined	This project has been postponed due to lack of resources.
	1.3.4 Use ENR legislation, such as Critical Wildlife Areas, to sponsor candidate sites.	Candidate site(s) process underway using ENR legislation	December 2011		In March 2010, ENR announced it will sponsor Buffalo Lake and Trails as a Critical Wildlife Area. A working group was established and a draft Management Recommendation Report has been prepared. ENR conducted a GNWT internal review of the proposed Yambahti Critical Wildlife Area and determined the GNWT should not sponsor the proposal as submitted.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
1.4 Managing Landscape Change	*1.4.1 In partnership with industry and Aboriginal organizations and boards, identify management actions to reduce and mitigate impacts on boreal caribou and their habitat from resource development.*	Action plan and status report	December 2009		✓ **Completed** The Action Plan for Boreal Woodland Caribou Conservation in the NWT 2010-15 was released in September 2010.
	1.4.2 Report on the Environmental Stewardship Framework (ESF) *and* Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP), *progress.*	Progress report	December 2009 and then annually		The Final 2010 NWT Environmental Audit Report will be released in July 2011.
1.5 NWT Science Agenda	*1.5.1 Identify ENR research needs and research priorities.*	Annual action plan and status report	June 2009 and then annually	Annually	Identification of long term research needs and priorities has been integrated into the ENR business planning process. A draft 5 year wildlife research and monitoring plan has been reviewed by wildlife co-management boards. The 13th International Arctic Ungulate Conference will be held in Yellowknife in August 2011. The conference is co-hosted by GNWT, the Government of Nunavut, and the Yukon Government.
	1.5.2 Work with other GNWT Departments to prepare a GNWT Science Agenda.	GNWT Science Agenda	September 2009		✓ **Completed** Building a Path for Northern Science: GNWT Science Agenda was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November 2009.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
1.6 ENR Succession Planning	*1.6.1 Work with the Department of Human Resources to develop a Succession Plan.*	Succession Plan	December 2010	December 2011	Following the development of the GNWT Succession Planning Framework by the Department of HR (2011/2012), an ENR Succession Plan will be developed.

2. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
2.1 Energy and Climate Change	*2.1.1 Work with energy partners to prepare detailed plans for action on enhancing use of alternative energy sources (biomass, geothermal, wind).*	Alternative energy action plan(s) and status report(s)	December 2009		✓ **Completed** The NWT Biomass Strategy was finalized in February 2010. A Northwest Territories (NWT) Geothermal Favourability Map was completed in March 2010. Wind monitoring has been conducted in areas of wind energy potential. Energy partners are now using the products and information to prepare detailed proposals and secure funding for alternative energy projects.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	2.1.2 Support actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and report progress annually.	Progress report	April 2009 and then annually	Annually	A review of actions was conducted as part of the process to renew the Strategy for the period beyond 2011. A new suite of actions will be identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2011-2015.
	2.1.3 Support NWT residents, businesses and communities to reduce energy consumption and implement alternative energy solutions.	Support programs - Alternative Energy Technologies Program (AETP); Energy Conservation Program; and Energy Efficiency Incentive Program	April 2009 and then annually	Annually	ENR has four programs designed to reduce energy use and promote alternative energy. ENR continues to deliver the AETP, the Energy Conservation Program and the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program that result in significant annual savings to NWT residents, businesses and communities and annual reductions of CO_2 emissions. The Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program (CECEP) was launched in May 2011 to provide free energy audits and a 25 percent (%) rebate of retrofit costs, up to a maximum of $10,000, to NWT businesses.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	2.1.4 Work with the Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation and a wind energy developer to install wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk.	Installation of wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk	July 2011	Unknown	In September 2010, the Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation (TDC) withdrew support for the project and ended the joint venture with Dowland Contracting to build, own and operate the project. The Class A estimate for the Project is $4.5 million. The Project will require a local partner in Tuktoyaktuk and additional funding from a federal partner if it is to be built. Discussions with community representatives and the Government of Canada are continuing.
	2.1.5 Undertake a review of the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and release an updated Strategy for 2012 – 2017	Updated NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy	August 2011		ENR is in the process of renewing the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy. Background research, stakeholder engagement, development of public consultation materials, and community and public meetings have been completed. A NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2011-2015 is scheduled to be released in August 2011.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
2.2 Climate Change Adaptation	*2.2.1 Prepare and release a climate change impacts and adaptation plan developed in consultation with affected departments.*	Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Plan	December 2009	December 2011	The NWT Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Report was completed in 2008. A Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy was released in April 2011. This Strategy outlines the impact of climate change in the three territories, proposes strategies for collaborative actions and supports territory specific initiatives to meet each territory's unique challenges. The Government of the NWT is developing an adaptation framework to facilitate adaptation actions across the NWT. The goal of this framework will be that decision makers at all levels (including government) have the information to incorporate climate change considerations into their actions, plans, policies and business decisions.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
2.3 Climate Change Network	*2.3.1 Provide communication and coordination support to organizations involved in greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation.*	Establishment of organizational support	September 2009	February 2010	✓ **Completed** ENR has established a network of contacts to provide input during the review and update of the Greenhouse Gas Strategy. Over the coming year this network will be broadened and enhanced to provide input on the Adaptation Plan and to provide a venue for circulation of climate change information.

3. Environmental Knowledge

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
3.1 Classifying and Mapping Ecosystems	*3.1.1 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone.*	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	March 2009		✓ **Completed** Ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone has been completed. The Taiga Plains (Mackenzie Valley) and Taiga Shield (forested areas north and south of Great Slave Lake) reports and posters have been distributed to the public (schools, industry, land and water boards, communities, etc) and are available on the ENR website.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	3.1.2 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Cordillera Ecozone.	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	April 2010	July 2010	✓ **Completed** The field work for the Boreal and Taiga Cordillera and the analysis are complete. The report and poster were published in October 2010, distributed to the public (schools, industry, land and water boards, communities, etc) and are available on the ENR website.
	3.1.3 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Southern and High Arctic Ecozones.	Ecozone classifications map and descriptors	September 2011	Spring 2012	Fieldwork for the Southern Arctic Ecozone was completed in the summer of 2009. The analysis and reporting will be completed by the fall of 2011. The first season of the High Arctic Ecozone field work was completed in summer of 2010. A second season is planned for July 2011. The analysis and final report will be completed in the spring of 2012.
3.2 Gathering Baseline Information and Monitoring Cumulative Effects	*3.2.1 Expand the existing air quality network into small NWT communities.*	Network expanded and operational	June 2009	Unknown	Efforts to secure funding to expand the air quality monitoring have been unsuccessful. ENR is not currently pursuing this expansion.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	3.2.2 Review available baseline data on wildlife and vegetation and develop a plan to address data gaps to ensure cumulative impacts and landscape change are well monitored and assessed.	Action plan to address data gaps	December 2009	17th Legislative Assembly	This action has been deferred to develop a comprehensive path forward on ENR's role in cumulative effects management.
	3.2.3 Implement programs through the Western NWT Biophysical Study to address gaps in baseline data and information and enhance monitoring of cumulative impact indicators.	Implementation of program(s); status report	December 2010	July 2011	A report on 2008/09 and 2009/10 - NWT Biophysical Program projects has been published. The Department is continuing with projects on boreal caribou, moose, barren-ground caribou, bison, and grizzly bears.
3.3 Building a Forest Management Information System	*3.3.1 Design and develop a Wildfire Management application (EMBER Module).*	Wildfire Management (EMBER) Application	September 2009	March 2010	✓ **Completed** The EMBER system was implemented for the 2010 fire season. Users have been trained and the system has been installed. Users are now using EMBER as their primary fire management software. Administrative modifications based on the first year of use were implemented for the 2011 wildfire season.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
3.4 Environmental Assessment Tracking System (EATS)	*3.4.1 Design, build and implement the EATS system to better manage the GNWT's environmental assessment processes and associated information management library.*	Environmental Assessment Tracking System operational	June 2009		✓ **Completed** EATS was formally implemented in April 2009. Tracking of obligations from past Reports of Environmental Assessment is now underway. An enhanced version of EATS was released June 2011.
3.5 Compliance Database	*3.5.1 Design, build and implement the Compliance Management Information System (CMIS). CMIS will enhance the ability for the Department to effectively carry out the compliance duties of its Officers through enhanced case management and intelligence collection functions.*	Compliance Management Information System Operational	June 2010	March 2012	A vendor has been selected and contracts are being finalized.
3.6 Reporting on the Northwest Territories "State of the Environment"	*3.6.1 Develop a 'State of the Environment' report on the NWT environment, focusing on its air, wildlife and forests.*	NWT State of the Environment Report	June 2009		✓ **Completed** The NWT State of the Environment Report has been completed and the Highlights Report published. Work on a 2011 Highlights Report is underway. The report is scheduled to be released in late fall 2011. The annual update of the web-based state of the environment report is underway and scheduled to be completed by July 2011.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	3.6.2.Develop a special report on State of Biodiversity to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity 2010	NWT State of Biodiversity Report	March 2010	May 2010	✓ **Completed** The NWT State of the Environment 2010 Biodiversity Special Edition was tabled on May 19, 2010.
3.7 Traditional Knowledge (TK) Policy Implementation	*3.7.1 Work with Aboriginal governments and partners, including communities and regional resource management agencies, to support the implementation of the ENR TK Implementation Framework.*	Implementation plan and status report	March 2009		✓ **Completed** The ENR TK implementation plan has been completed. The TK 2010-11 Annual Report was tabled in the Legislature on May 18, 2011.
	3.7.2 Develop and implement protocols with regional Aboriginal governments and agencies to access and share TK.	Protocols for information access and sharing	June 2012		Research continues into protocols for general TK information access and sharing.
	3.7.3 Work with the GNWT Interdepartmental TK Working Group to develop a plan for government-wide implementation of TK Policy	GNWT TK Implementation Framework	September 2012	March 2009	✓ **Completed** The GNWT TK Framework was completed in March 2009. Work will continue on developing individual department plans, as required.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	3.7.4 Implement the TK Policy Implementation plan for ENR	Workshops for all employees. Best Practices Guide distributed Grant and Contributions agreement in place to carry out TK research	March 2010 March 2011	March 2011	✓ **Completed** Through grants and contribution agreements ENR provided funding to the following communities and research organizations: Tulita Dene Band completed a video project – interviewing elders on TK about the land; Sambaa K'e Dene Band began a research project involving youth and elders to improve intergenerational communications to ensure that TK is passed on; Yamozhaa Kue Society (formerly Dene Cultural Institute) assisted in the development of a workshop to inform ENR scientists on the methods used to carry out TK research.
3.8 LISIN Licensing and Permitting Application	*3.8.1 NEW Enhancements to the Licensing Information System (LISIN) to include additional wildlife licenses and incorporate forestry licensing and permits*	LISIN Application operational with enhanced functionality	August 2012		LISIN development is complete. Regional training plans are being prepared. System will be implemented after training is complete.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

4. Environmental Stewardship

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.1 Past Environmental Legacies	*4.1.1 Work with the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for managing contaminated soil along the Northern Transportation Route (NTR).*	NTR contaminated soil management plan	December 2009	Ongoing until remediation of the entire route is complete.	All of the known uranium ore impacted materials in Fort Smith associated with the NTR have been addressed. ENR continues to press Natural Resources Canada for a further assessment of the Bennett Field site given use of the area by Tulita residents.
	4.1.2 Report progress on implementation of the approved closure and reclamation plan by Miramar Northern Mining Ltd. (MNML) (formerly Miramar Con Mine Ltd).	Progress report(s)	Ongoing until remediation of site is complete and continued site monitoring		Reclamation of the mine site continues. Miramar provides ENR with regular updates on cleanup activities, future activities, and timelines. Remediation work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012.
	4.1.3 Support the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) processes to complete the Environmental Assessment for Giant Mine's remediation in partnership with the Giant Mine Remediation team.	N/A	December 2009	December 2011	ENR continues to work with the Giant Mine Remediation Office to complete the environmental assessment (EA) process. The Developers Assessment Report has been submitted and accepted by the Board and the first round of Information Requests has been completed.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines		Status
			Original	Revised	
	4.1.4 Address recommendations resulting from the review of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan and begin remediation of the Giant Mine site.	N/A	September 2010 (begin remediation)	September 2012 (begin remediation)	Upon completion of the EA process, ENR will work with the Giant Mine Remediation Office to implement the approved remediation plan.
4.2 Waste Recovery Programs	*4.2.1 Introduce a Paper Products Diversion Initiative to provide financial support for NWT businesses, municipalities and environmental groups to investigate and/or pilot creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills.*	Paper Products Diversion Initiative status report	June 2009		✓ **Completed** A Paper Products Diversion Initiative has been initiated and will run for three years. ENR will report on the initiative annually.
	4.2.2 Implement actions to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic and paper bags including introduction of a fee on single-use retail bags.	Environmental fee for single-use retail bags introduced	September 2009	January 2010	✓ **Completed** The Single-use Retail Bag (SRB) Regulations came into force on January 15, 2010 and were expanded to apply to all retailers on February 1, 2011. The Regulations apply a 25 cent environmental fee to SRBs used in NWT grocery stores.
	4.2.3 Add milk containers to the Beverage Container Program.	Updated Beverage Container Program Regulations	June 2009	February 2010	✓ **Completed** The addition of milk and milk substitutes to the Beverage Container Program came into effect on February 15, 2010.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines		Status
			Original	Revised	
	4.2.4 Determine the appropriate approach to, and the setting up of a comprehensive electronics waste recovery program in the NWT.	Discussion Paper	September 2010	September 2011	ENR will investigate e-waste approaches in other jurisdictions and the potential costs of implementing similar programs in the NWT. Detailed studies of the financial viability of the most promising approaches will be conducted as funding permits.
4.3 Best Management Practices, Standards and Guidelines	*4.3.1 In collaboration with Environment Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, develop NWT-wide Guidelines for Seismic Operations, to address the ecological impacts of seismic operations in a proactive manner.*	Guidelines for Seismic Operations in the NWT	March 2009	August 2011	ENR, Environment Canada (EC), INAC and Fisheries and Oceans will release the final guidance document as part of the Northern Land Use Series in August 2011.
	4.3.2 Develop 'air quality best management practices' for the oil and gas industry, including exploration, preliminary processing and transport.	Air Quality Best Management Practices	December 2009		ENR will work with EC and the National Energy Board on the development of effective base level industrial emissions requirements for oil and gas operations in northern airsheds. This work will proceed under the comprehensive air management strategy developed under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines		Status
			Original	Revised	
	4.3.3 Identify additional 'best management practice' guidance documents for minerals, oil and gas development, and other industrial activities to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts, especially on forests, wildlife and habitat.	Review of Guidance documents and list of guidance documents to develop or update	Summer 2010 and annually	Annually	✓ **Completed** ENR has reviewed existing ENR and federal regulators' guidance/regulatory documents to identify duplication and gaps. Work is underway on guidance for the management of domestic wastes in NWT based industrial camps. Input is provided annually on guidance documents prepared by the federal government and regulatory boards.
4.4 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations	*4.4.1 Conduct an independent peer review of barren-ground caribou survey methods and outcomes.*	Independent peer review	March 2009		✓ **Completed** The independent peer review has been completed. Barren-Ground Caribou Management in the NWT: An Independent Peer Review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2009.
	4.4.2 Develop a Five-Year NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2011-2015.	NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2011-2015	June 2010	August 2011	ENR released the draft strategy for public review in February 2011. The final strategy will be released in August 2011.
	4.4.3 Develop agreements with the Governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut on the management of shared wildlife populations, including polar bears, barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou.	Bilateral agreements on shared wildlife populations for each jurisdiction	December 2010	December 2011	An agreement on shared boreal caribou populations has been completed with Alberta. A draft Nunavut/NWT polar bear management agreement has been completed. A format for barren-ground caribou management agreement has been agreed to by Yukon and Nunavut.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.5 Species at Risk	*4.5.1 Develop a NWT Bison Management Strategy.*	NWT Bison Management Strategy	December 2008	December 2010	✓ **Completed** An NWT Bison Management Strategy has been completed.
	4.5.2 Develop a NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou.	NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou	June 2009		✓ **Completed** ENR Implementation Plan has been developed. Environment Canada helped to monitor Boreal Caribou in the Deh Cho and South Slave in 2010/11. The Dehcho Boreal Caribou Working Group (WG) was established in February 2011. The WG will develop a management plan and range management plan for boreal caribou by early 2013.
	4.5.3 Develop Wood Bison Management Plans for the Liard, Mackenzie and Slave River Lowland Populations.	Management Plans for each population	December 2010	December 2012	Initial meetings to establish joint planning committees were held in communities in the spring of 2011. Joint committees for all bison populations are to be established by fall 2011. Management plans are set to be complete by December 2012.
	4.5.4 Update the General Status Ranks of Wild Species in the NWT 2011-2015.	Status report	June 2011		✓ **Completed.** NWT Species 2011 – 2015 was published in March 2011.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines Original	Timelines Revised	Status
4.6 Environmental Legislation					
4.6.1 Species at Risk Legislation	*4.6.1.1 Introduce the NWT Species at Risk Act.*	Species at Risk Act introduced in Legislative Assembly	December 2008		✓ **Completed** The new Species at Risk (NWT) Act came into effect in February 2010.
	4.6.1.2 Implement actions under the NWT Species at Risk Act.	Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) and Species at Risk Committee (SARC) Annual reports	June 2010 and then annually	Annually: July (SARC) and September (CMA)	✓ **Completed** A new website for NWT species at risk has been developed: www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca The CMA approved a five-year schedule of species to be assessed and will update the schedule yearly. The SARC is preparing status reports for the first four species to be assessed (in 2012): polar bear, Peary caribou, boreal woodland caribou, and hairy rockcress (a plant). The NWT Species at Risk Stewardship Program, now in its second year, provides funds for projects that support the long-term protection and recovery of species that are at risk or of concern in the NWT. 2009-2010 annual reports were tabled in fall 2010. 2010-2011 annual reports are being prepared.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines		Status
			Original	Revised	
	4.6.1.3 Sign Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on NWT Species at Risk.	Bilateral Cooperation Agreement (the Agreement)	March 2010	September 2012	GNWT revised the Agreement based on SARA (NWT) and resubmitted it to Environment Canada.
4.6.2 A New Wildlife Act	*4.6.2.1 Release a draft Wildlife Act for public consultation*	Draft NWT Wildlife Act	March 2011	December 2010	✓ **Completed** A draft Wildlife Act was released on November 24, 2010 for public review and discussion. During November and December 2010, public meetings were held throughout the NWT and Aboriginal organizations were consulted. The Wildlife Act Working Group reviewed all input and the Act was revised accordingly.
	4.6.2.2 Introduce the revised Wildlife Act.	Introduce revised Wildlife Act in Legislative Assembly	December 2011	March 2011	✓ **Completed** The proposed new Wildlife Act (Bill 9) was introduced on March 7, 2011 and received second reading on March 9, 2011.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.6.3 Forest Management Legislation	*4.6.3.1 Identify framework components and major steps for development of new forest and fire management legislation and policy.*	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Framework	December 2008		✓ **Completed** ENR has received the final report on major steps towards legislative and policy framework for the NWT, prepared under contract by KBM Consulting.
	4.6.3.2 Develop draft action plan for new forest and wildland fire management legislation and policy.	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Action Plan	June 2009	March 2012	Background research and issues scoping on forest policy and legislation was completed in May 2010. Next steps are to develop a draft action plan and schedule to completion, with dates to be determined. The Draft action plan and schedule will be completed by March 2012.
	4.6.3.3 Develop and implement regulations that require issuance of an Incidental Timber Harvesting Permit when cutting trees related to an industrial development activity.	Incidental Timber Harvesting Regulations	December 2009	March 2012	Background research on the issues and solutions for the creation of an Incidental Forest Use Authorization and implementation under the current land management jurisdictions in the NWT was completed. ENR is meeting with AAND – Canada on the shared implications of the revised *Regulations* and the application of the *Forest Resources Transfer Agreement*. Consultation on the draft regulations will commence in the new Assembly. ENR intends to bring forward the draft change to the *Forest Management Regulations* for implementation by March 31, 2012.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.7 Maintaining Forest Fire Management Services Program Effectiveness	*4.7.1 Conduct a review of ENR's strategic approach to wildland fire management that includes recommended changes. This will include a review of how the NWT Forest Fire Management Policy is implemented related to values at risk and the need to consider natural resource values such as habitat and needs of migratory species such as caribou.*	Discussion paper	September 2009	September 2011	Community consultation in 2008-2009 identified issues and concerns used to establish a Terms of Reference for a Wildland Fire Management Program Review. Community workshops were completed in October 2010. A final report on issues and recommendations was presented in February 2011. ENR has returned to the Contractor to clarify issues of Biomass and Climate Change. A follow-up report is expected by September 2011.
	4.7.2 Develop a Forest Fire Management Action Plan to address issues or gaps identified through the aforementioned review.	Forest Fire Management Action Plan	December 2009	May 2012	A draft plan based on recommendations from the Wildland Fire management Program Review is being developed. Changes to internal procedures and decision processes have begun.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline Original	Timeline Revised	Status
4.8 Wildland Fire Management					
4.8.1 Protecting Communities from Forest Fire	*4.8.1.1 Develop FireSmart interface fire management plans for Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic.*	FireSmart plans for each of Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic	December 2009	March 2010	✓ **Completed** Community Wildland Interface fire management plans have been completed for Fort Smith, Tsiigehtchic, Kakisa, Fort Providence, Norman Wells, Enterprise, Jean Marie River and Fort Good Hope. Plain language versions are being prepared.
	4.8.1.2 . Develop FireSmart interface fire management plans for Hay River, Hay River Reserve, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Trout Lake, Wrigley, Fort Liard, Lutsel K'e and Tulita	FireSmart plans for each of Hay River, Hay River Reserve, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Trout Lake, Wrigley, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Tulita.	March 2011		✓ **Completed** Field work and community discussions are complete for Hay River, Hay River Reserve, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Trout Lake, Wrigley, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Tulita. Contractors are completing the final plans.
	4.8.1.3. Develop FireSmart interface fire management plans for Fort McPherson, Behchoko, Yellowknife, Whati, Colville Lake and Deline.	FireSmart plans for each of Fort McPherson, Behchoko, Yellowknife, Whati, Lutsel K'e, Colville Lake and Deline.	March 2012		Community Wildland Interface fire management planning and community engagement for Fort McPherson, Behchoko, Yellowknife, Gameti, Whati, Lutsel K'e, Colville Lake, Aklavik and Deline are in progress.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	4.8.1.4 Develop a new inter-jurisdictional multi-year research plan to identify and address research gaps in community protection.	Community protection multi-year research plan	December 2009	March 2011	✓ **Completed** Validation of key FireSmart principles and improved firefighter safety are the primary focuses of the Canadian Boreal Community FireSmart Project. The community of Fort Providence, various other wildland fire agencies and academic institutions are collaborating on the five year project. Research coordination between Wildlife Division, Universite de Laval, University of Northern British Columbia and the Forest Management Division is in progress.
4.8.2 Forest Renewal	*4.8.2.1 Prepare a Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT to ensure sustainable use of forest resources.*	Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT	June 2009	March 2012	A draft Forest Renewal Strategy has been completed and an implementation plan is being prepared. The Strategy will be completed by March 2012.
4.9 Managing Forest Resources	*4.9.1 Develop a forest management plan for management of forest resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Region (GSR).*	GSR Forest Management Plan	June 2009	March 2012	A draft Gwich'in Forest Management Plan: A Framework for Forest Management has been completed and requires approval. An approval process is being discussed.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

5. Protect Territorial Waters

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
5.0 Protect Territorial Waters	*5.0.1 Compile NWT transboundary water data for use in future transboundary agreement negotiations, based upon concerns and issues identified.*	Technical information report	December 2009	additional information to be added as available.	✓ **Completed** Additional information will continue to be shared with Alberta, with the negotiations phase commencing in fall 2011.
	5.0.2 Engage Aboriginal governments, Land and Water Boards and others to develop a NWT water stewardship strategy to address concerns and issues.	NWT Water Stewardship Strategy	June 2009	May 2010	✓ **Completed** The *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy* was tabled in the NWT Legislature in May 2010 and the accompanying NWT Water Stewardship: A Plan for Action 2011-2015 was tabled in May 2011.
	5.0.3 Work with interested parties to identify appropriate aquatic ecosystem approaches, including indicators that will help in monitoring NWT values at risk.	Aquatic Ecosystem Approach	December 2010	Aug 2011 – Community workshop Report March 2012 – Experts Report	Slave River Partnership Community Workshop in Fort Smith and Fort Resolution engaged partners and communities in community-based monitoring and a report is being prepared. An aquatic ecosystem health indicators experts workshop is planned in Yellowknife, winter 2011/12.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	5.0.4 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Peace-Athabasca-Slave watersheds.	Bilateral Water Management Agreements (AB-NWT primary)	December 2011	AB-NWT Bilateral Spring 2012	A Bilateral Water Management Agreements Guidance Document to inform the bilateral process was completed in fall 2009. Negotiations begin on an Alberta-NWT bilateral agreement information-sharing phase in fall 2011.
	5.0.5 Work with the Federal Government, Land and Water Boards, communities and others to develop an implementation plan and inter-jurisdictional agreement, and implement the endorsed Canada-Wide Strategy for Municipal Wastewater Effluent.	Implementation Plan and Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement	March 2011	February 2012	Work is underway to assess risks from NWT community wastewater facilities. A federal- territorial-provincial working group is in place. A workshop will take place in fall 2011. An NWT agreement will follow.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	5.0.6 Develop effective resources, management and assessment tools, like catchment area maps, to help NWT communities manage risk to watersheds that are the source for public water supplies.	Community risk assessment tools	June 2012		The following work is underway in conjunction with NWT communities: • Community maps o Revisions to community watershed maps o On-line tool for watershed maps o mapping of key infrastructure (such as water treatment plant, sewage facility, solid waste facility) • Source water protection (SWP) planning o Model SWP plan o Identification of communities for pilots o Trent and University of Saskatchewan, Aurora College and MACA School of Community Government partnerships
	5.0.7 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations to address the Hay River and Great Slave watersheds.	Bilateral water management agreements with Alberta, in association with British Columbia and Saskatchewan	December 2012	Spring 2013	A Bilateral Water Management Agreements Guidance Document to inform the bilateral process was completed in the fall of 2009. Negotiations begin on an Alberta-NWT bilateral agreement information-sharing phase in fall 2011. Negotiations for the Hay River and Great Slave watersheds will be scheduled with respect to progress on the Peace-Athabasca-Slave.

* Spring (March 20 – June 20) Summer (June 21 – September 22) Fall (September 23- December 21) Winter (December 22 – March 19)

Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources